



Governor Terry E. Branstad  
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds  
San Wong, Director

**Juvenile Reentry Task Force**  
Lucas State Office Bldg., Room 201  
321 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Des Moines, IA 50319

June 11, 2015

**Present:** Ralph Allbee; Amy Carpenter; DeAnn Decker; Ashton Hampton; David Hicks; Mary Jackson; Kristi Judkins; Jessica Kropf; Brett Lawrence; Steve Miller; Gary Niles; John Spinks; Harrison Ulrich; Susan Walkup; Ross Wilburn

**Staff:** Steve Michael, CJJP Administrator; Nate Connealy; Dave Kuker; Julie Rinker; Kaleb VanCleave

**Others:** Jim Swaim and Joan VandenBerg

- **Call to Order**
- **Welcome/Introductions**

Dave Kuker called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. A quorum was present. Both Kuker and Jim Swaim, Facilitator, welcomed those in attendance. Introductions were made.

Steve Michael provided an overview of the grant. The cross-agency coordination will help boys and girls reentering society from the Boys State Training School and group care. The goal is to help these young people become successful by providing opportunities and services to assist them in their return to their home communities.

Michael invited members to remain on an implementation task force if/when the grant is awarded. Members unable to serve were encouraged to recommend others from their agency.

- **Minutes - May 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**Ashton Hampton moved to approve the minutes from the May meeting, seconded by DeAnn Decker. There was no discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

- **Overview of Day**

Swaim reported that the purpose of the meeting was to review the final action plan for approval. Next steps include submitting the grant, selecting future meeting dates, and reviewing recent legislation that could affect or enhance the project.

- **Review – Final Action Plan**

Nate Connealy reviewed the final action plan, included in the meeting packet. Key tasks were listed in chronological order of completion; priority objectives were highlighted. The tasks followed the four core principles and were categorized: Assessment; Evidence-Based Practices; Coordination and Communication; and Developmental Needs/Growth. The plan designates responsible agency/staff; resource requirements; performance measures; deadlines; and project status. Many of the tasks will be implemented in years one and two.

Swaim commended Connealy, CJJP, and the task force members on the action plan. He reviewed the overall steps in developing the plan—identifying issues, barriers, and strengths across multiple agencies. The plan has built-in accountability and transparency.

A brief discussion included the following suggestions:

- A list of acronyms should be included in the plan.
- Principle #4, Key Task 3:6 was changed to: exploring better opportunities for Vocational Rehabilitation to work with individuals being served at the State Training School.
- Principle #4, an additional task will be added: Key Task 1:6 will relate to credit identification and tracking to ensure that proper credits get transferred.

**Steve Miller moved to approve the plan incorporating the above changes; seconded by John Spinks.**

**Gary Niles suggested defining ‘enrollment’ under Key Task 1:1. In some districts, kids must go to an alternative school. He questioned whether or not that was ‘enrollment’. Michael noted that the key word was ‘appropriate’ enrollment. There was consensus to capture this information in ICIS and develop a performance measure for it.**

**There was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

- **Broad Overview - Budget**

Kuker reviewed the draft budget. Michael noted that the required matching funding will be met through the Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS has agreed to provide 100% of the match through aftercare services for youth leaving the State Training School. These funds must be spent on youth in the juvenile justice system.

Because of recent legislation, youth are able to access services through age 21. Kuker reviewed a CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocate) program for older youth being piloted in Polk County. These youth experience similar issues—lacking secondary education/preparation, healthcare, and employment. CASA is interested in assisting with the project although legislative changes may be required to serve youth in the juvenile justice system.

Although a one-year budget, technology and training will continue into a second year. Swaim suggested the evaluation include a cost/benefit analysis of the implementation. Members discussed issues related to housing. It was suggested that any extra funding be used towards recovery support services—housing, medications, transportation, etc.

**Kristi Judkins moved to approve the draft budget with any leftover funding going toward wrap-around/recovery support services. The motion was seconded by John Spinks and was unanimously approved.**

- **Next Steps**

- **June 23, 2015 Implementation Grant Submission**

The application is due June 23. Letters of support are still being received. Once submitted, the final application will be shared with members. If awarded, the grant begins October 1.

- **Next Mtg.**

There was consensus to meet again on July 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. September 24 was tentatively set as the first meeting for the Implementation Task Force. However, if no response has been received regarding the grant award, the meeting will be moved to October 1, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- **2015 Iowa Legislative Action**

Michael asked if there was any legislation that would affect the project. He noted legislation extending juvenile court jurisdiction to age 21. Niles added that it gives juvenile court services the ability to use graduated sanctions funds for kids 18-21.

Niles noted other legislation:

- Sealing juvenile records if a formal charge is not pursued.
    - The Iowa Supreme Court will not review the lawsuit regarding the Iowa Juvenile Home.

- **Closing/Reflection on Day**

Swaim closed the meeting by asking members to reflect on the following:

**Thinking back over all the meetings, what were key things you heard, you saw—**  
Common threads, woven together like a strong blanket.

**What were some of things you read, of the documents sent to you—**every document, Connealy did a great job with action plan.

**Was there a time you doubted where this was going—**First meeting.

**Was there a time that you felt confident that we're on the right track—**May meeting.

**Was there a time that you enjoyed the moment—**small group work; concepts put on the wall; what we can do; meeting others.

**In looking at the action plan, what 1-2 things do you think will happen quickly?** Loved the piece about helping youth stay connected/face time—it goes toward building confidence

and relationships; developing a relationship with IWD—teaching job expectations, how to hold a job, things like that. Sustainability.

**What 1-2 things between now and the July/September meeting are you going to do to advance this work?** Youth transition decision-making facilitators; through these discussions will fold into changes with IOWA; will continue to talk to administration and board and expand transitional youth program to other areas of the state.

Swaim thanked those in attendance. He stated he has enjoyed working with everyone and noted dedication from members in turning four abstract ideas into a plan for young people in Iowa.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker  
Administrative Secretary  
Iowa Department of Human Rights  
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning